

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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THE PLACE TO GET SETTLERS.

There are all sorts of proposals to seek settlers in New York and Chicago, but it is hard to get attention fixed upon the plan to procure them on the coast where the best settlers we have, the Wahiawa people, were recruited. Distance lends enchantment to the view, and a Chicago or New York location, under the eye of a past grand master of labor unionism, who is eager to have the thing tried, seems to take on a much more iridescent look than it would afford after the experiment had gone further. When too late we might find metropolitan homesteaders, including their walking delegates, not all they were cracked up to be as a substantial middle class, tilling the soil.

If our people consult economy and want practical farmers they should seek them where they found the Wahiawa people. California, let it be understood, does not suit all the Eastern farmers who go there to settle; indeed, a considerable part of them look askance at it, but, having come so far and knowing nothing better beyond, they do not want to go back. California does not come up to their expectations of verdure; they do not understand the fertility of its deserts; rainless summers appall them at first and if they stay they stay reluctantly. Here in Hawaii they would find nature at its best as they understand nature. Hence the ease with which settlers might be had from there. And being so much nearer by than people in Chicago or New York, they would not find the expense of coming here so formidable.

For years Byron O. Clark has said that he could go to Southern California and duplicate the Wahiawa colony over and over again. Having been familiar with that region and its people for a decade, the writer of this topic agrees with Mr. Clark and would be glad to see him or some other capable man sent on such a mission. Clark, Bonine, the moving picture man, and H. P. Wood, could carry on such a propaganda with signal effect; and the result, if the land were available, would be colonies and not theories.

If the question were one of getting European labor for the canefields, Mr. Sargent's plan of a New York office would answer admirably, especially if the office were under the hat of an active man at Ellis Island. But a small sales display, in the midst of a vast city, would be lost far more absolutely than were the large displays we made at two or three world's fairs. Those fair exhibits were of no value to us; and the only useful agent in getting white American settlers for Hawaii will prove to be the Territorial government represented by two or three active men on the coast placing official literature where it will do the most good and backing it up with personal influence.

TAFT AND THE NOMINATION.

The claim that Secretary Taft will be nominated for President on the first ballot, rests upon a table of figures, supplied from Washington, in which the Southern States are credited with a solid Taft delegation of 213 votes. The Territories, including Hawaii, are given fourteen votes, all for Taft; likewise enough northern and western states are called in to make a total of 491. New England states are expected to yield, in scattering delegates, forty more, making the necessary Taft majority and some over.

A great many Republicans look upon the use that is made of the skeleton Republican organization in the South with a sense of outrage. Not a single Southern State—certainly none of the old Confederate ones—will cast a Republican ballot in the Electoral College; nevertheless they have as much to say in the nominating convention as if they were Republican commonwealths. Their vote in the convention simply represents a small class of Federal officeholders who take orders from Washington and who "deliver the goods" as directed. Nothing in the old English rotten borough system was worse; from any standpoint of fairplay, the marshalling of these skeleton organizations to offset the preferences of such states as New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and so on is a detestable imitation of the worst kind of ward politics. Happily, as in the time of President Arthur, it sometimes creates feeling enough in the North to upset all political calculations based upon it.

The Territories are in a somewhat similar position. They can not vote for President but they may help name the nominee. Hawaii is expected to stand solid at Chicago for Taft, though the party sentiment here is against him. It will be interesting, therefore, to watch developments and see what influences may be brought to bear against the plan, which seems now to have local party assent, to send uninstructed delegates.

NO MONTE CARLO HERE.

The suggestion that Honolulu should become an open town for the sake of getting tourists is not one which responsible citizens approve. This town is quite open enough now and, if it were made more so for the benefit of the gambling class a public uprising in politics would follow that might go so far as to shut up the town altogether. Saratoga may be cited as an example of the bunco theory of progress. That place concluded to build on a gambling basis and the acquiescent Mr. Canfield opened a casino there and surrounded it with a delightful park. He forbade the presence of professional gamblers, hired detectives to keep them out and made it a rule that no citizen of Saratoga or any youth of minor age should enter his place. But all the evils of professionalism were soon apparent and Mr. Canfield's casino had to close, the promotion people having found that it did the city, as a place of general resort, vastly more harm than good. Saratoga had more tourists before Canfield was forced out, and it has had more since he left the casino to its memories and the park to its birds.

Pasadena is a prosperous tourist resort, one of the most popular places of the kind in Southern California. It not only gets a multitude of tourists but it attracts the best residential class. Yet it is a prohibition city—as much of a one as Asbury park itself. Its history might be studied to advantage by those who think Honolulu can get right by going wrong.

The settled opinion of the people holding the largest interests in Honolulu and having the most at stake here, is that a certain class of tourists is no more desirable than the plague. Undoubtedly, we might have for the asking a swell mob of gamblers, courtesans, groggy millionaires, young spendthrifts, gentlemanly thieves, turf-celebrities and the like the year around, but Honolulu has too long been a center of civilization in the Pacific to permit any such blight to fall upon its name or to stain its record. The Hawaiian monarchy found that out fifteen years ago when it proposed to give the lottery an asylum, and public opinion here has not changed since.

THE MEANING OF THE ARMADA.

The press is as much at sea as the fleet in trying to explain the meaning of the great cruise, but so far, most responsible journals find no reason to think the movement hostile. It seems to be chiefly a display of our naval strength in an ocean which, in the past few years, has taken a political aspect and where any considerable number of American battleships has never appeared. Besides all this, there is a strain of the spectacular in it which finds origin in the character of the President. Mr. Roosevelt, like the Kaiser of Germany and the late Earl of Beaconsfield, likes to keep himself in the well-lighted center of affairs. It was partly this spirit which prompted the Kaiser to quarrel with Bismarck, to send the Boer cablegram, to make his strange call in Morocco, and to visit the Czar soon after the Russian alliance with France; and it was the same characteristic which gave color to Beaconsfield's parade of the British fleet in the Mediterranean while England and Russia were sparring diplomatically. It also gave color to his Egyptian coup de theatre and to the course he took at the Congress of Berlin. Men of this stamp like to play great parts on the world's stage and create the situations for them; to be the lofty actors in a stirring play of their own making—yet still but a play. Roosevelt is as restless as the Kaiser for such a chance; and what could suit him better than to prepare and dispatch a vast armada, perhaps around the world, carrying the flag above monster guns and keeping tens of millions of people wondering if he means to touch the button that would unleash the thunder of his batteries, and also to convince the chancelleries, if they hold to any doubts, that America must be reckoned with in all the seas?

It is assuredly a stirring drama. Our best hope is that, while it is running, no opposition theater will begin business across the way.

THE ARGUMENT OF HEALTH.

In the general discussion of the tourist propaganda in these columns, emphasis has been laid on the things that most easily induce travel. We have shown no great faith in the superior drawing power of scenery, because places in America which have a fine natural setting and nothing else are visited less than places, without scenic charm, which offer something of value to the purse and the health. Florida, a flat sandy country, monotonous and dull, has been enriched by tourists who believed either that the climate would cure them or that the productions of or the rise in the price of land would make them well off, while some of the intermountain states, where the scenery rivals that of Switzerland, get very few tourists indeed. Northern California, magnificent in its woods, streams and peaks, sees only about fifteen per cent of the tourists who enter the coast belt, and Southern California, a verdureless desert for most of the year, save where men have tilled and irrigated it, gets the rest of them, or eighty-five per cent. And this is because of the financial possibilities in citrus land and city lots and because of the widely-advertised medicaments of sun and air.

The Advertiser has considered the land enticement theory in a series of articles, pointing out by analogy that people will naturally come here if given a chance to make money in specialized tropical agriculture. Now as to the hygienic reasons:

There are, perhaps, ten millions of people on the mainland whose health requires a mild and equable climate, an open air life the year around, freedom from malarial conditions and constant access to the sea. Of these, several millions can not afford to seek such advantages and will eventually succumb to the diseases born of a great range of temperature, a partially shut-in life and miasmatic air. The very large residue, the people who can afford to live where they please, do not always know where to go; or, in seeking the better-known mainland resorts, find them not quite suitable. Florida has frosts in winter and intense heat in summer while California is cursed with fogs on the coast and with heat or frost in the valleys, according to the season. The disappointed ones say that some climate which is warm without being hot, practically unvarying from month to month, is what they want. But where, they ask, can it be found? Speak to such people of the tropics and they recoil from a vision of everlasting dog days, strange diseases, malarial swamps, snakes and wild beasts. If they were taught the climatic difference between the miasmatic and the trade wind tropics, and shown how naturally a land created as Hawaii was by an ancient rising from the sea can be free of snakes and tigers and other tropical mainland pests, their ideas might change in a way profitable to them and to us.

It is the purpose of the Hawaiian Promotion Committee, as we understand it, to seek settlers, but not to abandon the quest of tourists, in which case we urge that body to lay especial stress upon land and health in all its future literature. Find out what maladies this climate is good for. If our air gives relief in certain forms of rheumatism, say so in black type. If the land has no malaria, except such as people may bring here in their own systems, print that fact in bold characters. If the climate arrests the earliest progress of tuberculosis make the fact clear to every one. Reinforce the statistics of health by the wonderful records made by white island boys of the third generation in the athletic and intellectual pursuits of mainland colleges. Make clear the proverbial mildness of children's diseases; the effect of the even climate on longevity. Show how nervous maladies improve in a place where one may live close to a summer sea, in quiet ease, untroubled by elemental disturbances. Show the admirable workings of the Board of Health by which imported epidemics are headed off. In other words place Hawaii before the public as one of the world's great sanatoriums where nature works her cures under more favorable circumstances than she does at most of the recognized therapeutic watering places of Europe and America; and seek, withal, to get the great health institutions, like those at Battle Creek, to establish some of their branch institutions here. Under such methods of work along with those concerning agriculture and settlers, the labors of the Promotion Committee ought to be worth more to this place—vastly more—than they ever were while they dealt with snowy slopes or summer seas or fine hotel accommodations.

SPECKS ON THE OCEAN.

It is usually the case that a sailing ship, coming within sighting distance of a rowboat on the high seas, fails to notice it. An object must be large, indeed, to define itself in the waste of waters that spreads about an ocean-going vessel; and a sailing craft being much lower in the water than a steamer and without so many eyes at the rail, is hardly to be blamed for not making out the tiny blur a rowboat becomes a mile or two ahead, especially when the waves are running high. Even from a steamer it is difficult with a glass to make out a rowboat a third of the way between it and the horizon; and every ocean traveler knows that one has to look sharp and sometimes long to make out a schooner, or even a full-rigged ship which some one has discovered and is pointing at. The derelict rowboat which gets help at sea, especially on the Pacific, is in miraculous luck.

Eventually, as science progresses and the wireless system comes into general use, afloat and ashore, it may not be so serious a matter to "take to the boats" on the high seas as it now is. Some day every ship and every ship's boat may have a simple and practicable wireless device with which to sweep the ocean and land for aid. Meanwhile the law ought to compel every such boat to carry, in a water-tight compartment, a small water condenser, enough spirit to provide the fire for it and as many tins as practicable of tabloid food. Taking chances with eleventh-hour grabs at galley stores and hurried draughts of the fresh water supply, has cost many useful lives.

IS LEE LET IMMUNE?

It is one year since Lee Let undertook to bribe the Chief of Detectives, a crime for which he stands indicted.

His trial was due months ago, but the County Attorney seems to have no more desire to set it than would a man in his position who had made up his mind to let the case hang on until the public had so far forgotten Lee Let as to make it easy to free him with a quiet nolle prosequi.

Only the other day the case was again moved along towards oblivion. Why? Does any one know who will tell?

Whatever the reason, the apparent ease with which Lee Let has escaped trial is inducing Chinamen to approach the police and perhaps others with corrupt suggestions, thus making it difficult to achieve the ends of justice.

If publicity in this matter will bring Lee Let to book, the Advertiser will see that there is no lack of it.

It was to escape the meddling of political committees in the matter of Federal appointments that tens of thousands of clerks were put upon the classified civil service list. Year by year the government is enlarging this roster of protected employees and cutting down the number of political office-holders. The object is to get experience and efficiency and to stand off demoralization; and it works so well in the national field that the method might well be enacted here. Hawaii's experience with dictated appointments, as shown at the outset of the Territorial administration, was not such as to build up faith in that procedure. How many resents got into office under the pressure of the Territorial Republican Committee can not be accurately told without looking over the grand jury's record and the jail commitments. But the number was large. Since then the Advertiser has always advised the officials, especially those put in charge of administrative departments, to choose their own employees, irrespective of what campaign committees that have debts to pay and want to pay them at the expense of somebody else, may like or not like. It is an agreeable fact that the advice is usually taken.

After carrying on a campaign, five years long, to get the Leilehua military reserve back into Territorial hands, for farming purposes, the Advertiser is glad to be first to congratulate Governor Frear on the prospects of partial victory. The Governor feels assured, as one result of his work at Washington, that at least half the tract of 14,000 and more acres will be recovered and made to add, in prolific crops, to the agricultural riches of the Territory. Such good news, coming in the stream of recent encouragements to diversified farming, helps to keep Oahu optimistic at a time when mainlanders are most despondent.

If San Francisco intends to base a request that her lepers be cared for at Molokai on our obligations to her as a friend of our harbor improvements and forts, it need not prove embarrassing. A place that enjoys a \$10,000,000 trade with Hawaii, despite the eagerness of competing points, can not afford to become hostile even if we do put up the bars against her undesirable citizens.

An extra lock on your chicken house may interfere with some of the festive expectations of the Chinese New Year. The proverb of Confucius that the Superior Man, seeing a friend in his watermelon patch, will always turn his back, is recommended to chicken-raisers who wish to stand well among the orthodox Celestials. It is also courteous to let the watch-dog sleep in the house until konohi is over.

Chief Justice Hartwell has taken pains to inform the two evening papers that he was misreported by the Advertiser as to a paragraph in his remarks about the Queen's abdication. He did not, he says, "draw the Queen's abdication address, for there was none," nor did he "see the Queen." What he did do, however, was to "draw the written abdication" at the request of the Queen's agents. "I made," he adds, "several drafts to meet suggestions from the Queen communicated to me through Mr. Neumann." In other words, it was a case of tweedledum and not of tweedledee. Evidently, one must be stenographic in reports of the Chief Justice's casual talks or dry rot will attack the very roots of history. It took three days, we believe, to correctly warn the public of a dark misrepresentation of the afternoon press that Judge Hartwell was bitten by Mr. Carter's dog and not by Mr. Holloway's. Happily, the afternoon press did not describe the dog as yellow or it might have taken half a keg of printer's ink to establish the all-important fact that the dog was brown or some other color.

The Advertiser trusts that the Land Commissioner, if he has found a chief clerk for whom he is willing to be responsible, will appoint him without the slightest concern as to the course which may be taken by any political committee. If things were to go wrong in the Land office, the committee, even if it had succeeded in dictating appointments there, would accept no responsibility, but would leave it all on the shoulders of Mr. Pratt. Its interference, therefore, with that official's choice of clerks, is inexcusable. Perhaps we are not yet far enough away from the old spoils system to prevent political committees from meddling with the choice of heads of departments, but when those officials are in office and under bonds, they should be permitted to choose their subordinates at pleasure and with an eye single to probity and efficiency. No really good citizen cares a rap about the politics of the men in the clerkships so long as they attend to business and let political dickering alone.

It is a singular fact that no standard history of Honolulu is in the market. The admirable though brief work on Hawaii by Dr. Alexander gives Honolulu such space as can be afforded, but we know of no book which tells the story of Honolulu through its long and checkered career. There would be a fine chance now while so many trained men who have known this city for over fifty years are living to collaborate on such a book or put their memorabilia at the disposal of some outside writer who might be able to undertake the task. Such a man has been of inestimable service to one of the Southern California cities of late in gathering its fugitive records and testimonies and putting them into a volume of pure history, untroubled by purchased autobiographies and by advertising.

Trouble may come of the decision reached by France not to permit Morocco to be controlled by the powers. But two nations, France and Spain, have anything like suzerain rights in Morocco, the German claim resting upon a trade foothold. After the Russo-Japanese war, Germany felt that the time had come to "feel the pulse of France in Morocco," and did so in a manner which might have brought on war but for the action of Great Britain in pressing for a conference. This conference, which was held at Algiers, does not seem to have settled one of the chief questions involved, hence the decisive course of the French government now. As things stand it is Germany's move, with the possibility then that Great Britain, as the next friend of France, will enter the game.

If the story is true that coast capitalists are going to start a 400,000-acre banana plantation near Acapulco, Mexico, with which to drive the United Fruit Company out of coast business, then the sooner Hawaii connects with the United Fruit Company and interests it in banana culture here, the better for the Territory and the company as well.

It cost \$434,760.97 out of tax receipts of \$499,012.13 to run the government of Oahu county last year. People who think that they have had nearly half a million dollars more value out of the county system than they got from the one it superseded, can find plenty of firecrackers in Chinatown to celebrate with.

Secretary Cortelyou has been offered a fine position in New York as president of the Knickerbocker Trust Co., but he is loath to take it and lose his chance for the presidency of the United States. He prefers a dreambird in the bush to a turkey in hand. There is no accounting for tastes.

People who are scared by war rumors should remember that, if Japan chooses to fight the United States, she must also prepare for hostilities with Russia. No European money market would finance a proposition like that.

This is the birthday of William McKinley, money to pay for a fitting memorial of whom was raised here by popular subscription so long ago that most people have forgotten what became of it.

Now, that the French Chamber of Deputies has sustained the ministry in its drastic Moroccan policy, it is Germany's turn to make some dammerring remarks.

Let us hope that Kalaniana'ole overcame any scruples which might have lurked in the Naval Committee on the subject of Pearl Harbor improvements.

The dispatch of \$12,000 worth of home-made leather from Honolulu the other day shows that another side-line industry is doing pretty well, thank you.

The transportation problem for small farm produce seems to be solving itself as fast as it can.

Yesterday's rain was mostly prospectus and very little work.

Won't somebody sit down on the Liddy?

PROSPERITY ON ISLAND OF MAUI

In spite of the general financial stringency Wailuku and Kahului, on the island of Maui, are feeling good. New buildings are being erected in the two towns and in some cases they are really pretentious structures. Of course the largest of these is the new courthouse, for which the contract was awarded to A. P. McDonald. The building is now up one story from the ground and presents a good appearance, being built of blue lava rock. The contractor has been very lucky and has not lost a single day's work through rain.

For that matter the dry weather has proved to be a good thing for others. The sugar mills have been having the best grinding season that they have experienced for several years. With the small amount of rain the cane has been brought in fast and in good condition. The only fear is that there may not be a sufficient supply of water for irrigating purpose. There will be none too much at any rate and there may be a scarcity.

In Kahului the effects of the building of the new breakwater are being shown to great advantage. The Erskine M. Phelps, one of the largest sailing ships that floats the American flag, is anchored in the harbor and completely protected from the heavy swell, which used to cause so much trouble when freight was being discharged or sugar being loaded. At the present time the Phelps' ballast of Tacoma clay, is being taken ashore in scows and used for the building up of the waterfront. Captain Graham expects to leave on his trip for Delaware Break-

water about February 15.

Business has been so good during the past year for the store of the Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. that a new building is to be erected for the retail department. The foundations are already laid and most of the lumber for the structure is on the ground. The main building will measure sixty by eighty feet and the offices will be separate.

In Wailuku, business seems to be generally good, even for the hotels. F. A. Mayfield, the proprietor of the Maui Hotel, has decided to add a side-line. He has leased the one-story building on the corner opposite his hotel and will install two box-ball alleys and two pool tables. A small cigar stand will also be in the building, at which soft drinks will be served. The box-ball alleys will be the first of their kind in the Territory. The game resembles bowling to a certain extent, but the players reset the pins by pulling a lever, and no boy is needed for the purpose.

WAIANAE TIMBER.

There was a conference yesterday afternoon between the Governor, Land Commissioner Pratt, Deputy Assessor Wilder, W. A. Hopper and H. E. Cooper, in regard to the disposal of the dead timber on the Wahiawa side of the Waianae range of mountains. There was a severe forest fire in that part of the mountain range a few years ago, on government land. Many of the trees were killed and have fallen down. Applications for the purchase of this fallen timber have been made. The conference yesterday was in regard to it.

The Board of Regents held a routine meeting yesterday.